

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
H-01 NSC-05 /066 W
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R 251700Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6726
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13840

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: INVITING SPAIN TO ALLIED MANEUVERS

REF: MADRID 6189

1. AGREE MADRID'S SUGGESTION (PARA 4 REFTEL) THAT ITALIAN PERCEPTION OF SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION HAS ALTERED SINCE LAST FALL. WHETHER IT HAS WARMED SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE KIND OF EXCHANGE TRAINING CONTEMPLATED IS ANOTHER MATTER. WE WOULD NEED TO PUT THE QUESTION TO THEM, AND WILL DO SO IF THE DEPARTMENT AND USNATO CONCUR.

2. ASSUMING THE REACTION TO BE NEGATIVE, WE WOULD GUESS THAT THE ITALIAN FINISH WILL NOW BE THAT THE FACILITIES ENJOYED BY U.S. FORCES IN ITALY ARE IN FACT GRANTED FOR NATO USE
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AND COULD NOT APPROPRIATELY BE EMPLOYED BY NON-NATO MEMBERS. IF THERE IS PRECEDENT FOR SIMILAR ACTIVITIES IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES IN EUROPE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BE FOREARMED WITH THAT INFORMATION. IN ADDITION IF THERE WOULD BE BROAD SUPPORT AMONG OTHER RALLIES IN BRUSSELS FOR THIS PROJECT THE ITALIANS MIGHT FIND IT EASIER TO ACCEPT. FINALLY, A MORE ATTRACTIVE

PACKAGE COULD BE OFFERED TO THE ITALIANS OF A SERIES OF TRI-LATERAL EXERCISES TO INCLUDE THEIR AIRBORNE FORCES, POSSIBLY FIRST IN SPAIN, FOLLOWED UP BY ONE IN ITALY.

3. THE ITALIANS TEND TO LOOK ON PROPOSALS OF THIS KIND WITH ONE EYE, THE OTHER FIXED UPON VISIONS OF HOW THE LEFTIST PRESS WOULD TREAT THEM IF THEY TOOK PLACE. THE ASSUMPTION WOULD BE THAT THE PRESS WOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE SPECTRES OF ITALIAN INVOLVEMENT IN NON-NATO CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN "THE SERVICE OF U.S. IMPERIALISM." HOWEVER, IF THE PROPOSITION WERE OTHERWISE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH AND WERE BACKED BY MORE THAN US AND THE SPANIARDS, AN APPEAL TO AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL OF THE GOI COULD BEAR FRUIT.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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